

# WATERTON LAKES

NATIONAL PARK  
CANADA





## FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment." Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The discovery of mineral hot springs bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 26 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.

Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, some contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Service of the Lands and Development Services Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Service is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia to Fort Prince of Wales on Hudson Bay, nine such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

Also of historical significance was the act of linking two great national parks in Alberta and Montana to be known as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Commemorating the peace that has existed for over 130 years between adjoining nations, this unspoiled area of natural beauty is symbolic of the goodwill enjoyed by these two peoples.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset—undiminished by use—for all future generations.

Front Cover Photo:

Cameron Lake and Mount Custer

## VISITORS' GUIDE

### Location and Description

Waterton Lakes National Park, situated in the extreme southwest corner of the Province of Alberta, was set apart in 1895. It covers an area of 204 square miles along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains immediately north of the International Boundary. Its western boundary is formed by the crest of the Rockies, which separates Alberta from British Columbia; its northern boundary by the Crownsnest Forest Reserve of Alberta; and its eastern boundary by the undulating prairie land of foothill ranches and homesteads. To the south lies Glacier National Park in the State of Montana.

In 1932, through legislation enacted by Canada and the United States, Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks were proclaimed the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Waterton Lakes Park headquarters is located at Waterton Park townsite. In the business section of this townsite are to be found the customary services of a modern community. There are four general stores, three grocery stores, a drug store, two butcher shops, a beauty parlor, and four garages and service stations. A motion picture theatre and a dance pavilion are operated throughout the summer season. The Post Office is open daily except Sunday, and long distance telephone calls may be made at the office of the Park Transport Company.

Waterton Lakes Park is one of the most colourful and charming of Canada's mountain playgrounds. Its mountains rise almost abruptly from the plains; their remarkable colouring of purple, green, and gold give to the peaks a warm and brilliant tone. Some have sharp pyramids formed of yellow shale outcroppings which glisten in the sunrise and sunset, while others have summits and slopes banded with red.

Upper Waterton Lake, one of the outstanding features of the park, is crossed by the International Boundary; its attractions are thus shared by both Canada and the United States.

### HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Waterton Lakes National Park is reached by the Provincial Highway system of Alberta, which connects with the park highways. From the east, approach may be made from Medicine Hat via Lethbridge and Macleod to Pincher Creek (town) and from there south to the park. An alternative route from Lethbridge is through Cardston. From British Columbia on the west, approach may be made via Crownsnest Pass and Pincher. From the north, a hard-surfaced route may be followed from Edmonton to Calgary and Macleod, and from there to the park, via Pincher. The park is also accessible via the Canadian Pacific Railway to Pincher or Cardston, and by a convenient bus service from these points. Buses leave Lethbridge for the park twice daily in summer, one at 12 noon by way of Pincher Creek and one at 4 p.m. by way of Cardston. The trip takes approximately four hours. A station bus operates between Pincher Station and Pincher Creek for the convenience of those travelling by train.

The most direct approach to Waterton Lakes National Park from the United States is over the Chief Mountain International Highway from Glacier National Park. The Glacier Park Transport Company operates a frequent service over this route. This highway also forms a link in the new hard-surfaced route between Glacier National Park and Banff National Park.

Visitors travelling by air are served by the Trans-Canada Airlines and the Northwest Airlines which make scheduled stops at Lethbridge.

## Accommodation

Name	Capacity	Daily Rates		
		Single	Double	
<b>Waterton Lakes</b>				
<b>Townsite</b>				
Prince of Wales Hotel	90 rooms	\$11-\$13	\$20-\$24	(A)
<b>Waterton Lakes</b>				
Hotel	16 rooms	\$3	\$4.50	(E)
and Chalets	16 chalets	\$3-\$4	\$4-\$5	(E)
Ballinacor Hotel	17 rooms	\$3	\$4.50	(E)
Kilmorey Lodge	24 rooms	\$2.75	\$3.50-\$5.50	(E)
Crandell Lodge	50 persons		\$4-\$5.50	(E)
Stanley Hotel	50 persons	\$2.50		(E)
<b>Waterton Lakes</b>				
Bungalows	25 cabins	\$2-\$7.50		(E)
Reeves Auto Camp	20 cabins		\$6-\$8	(E)
<b>Cameron Lake</b>				
<b>Cameron Lake</b>				
Bungalows	6 cabins	\$2.50-\$3		(E)
<b>Waterton River</b>				
<b>Bridge</b>				
<b>International</b>				
Coffee Shop and Cabins	7 cabins	\$4	\$6	(E)

(A) indicates American Plan (with meals)

(E) indicates European Plan (without meals)

NOTE: Rates quoted are the latest available but may be subject to minor revision from time to time.

Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment or have automobile trailers, it would be advisable to reserve accommodation in advance.

### CAMPING

Camping has always been popular in the Waterton Lakes area. Since it became a national park, many of the most suitable camp-sites have been improved. Some have been equipped with electric light, running water, kitchen and community shelters, tables, stoves, fuel and sanitary facilities. Most of these camping sites are within reasonable distance of supplies.

The main camp-ground in the park is located in the southern part of Waterton Park townsite and covers an area of about 35 acres. It is traversed by Cameron Creek and is part of the alluvial "fan" upon which the townsite is laid out. A gravel subsoil ensures good drainage and there are sufficient trees to provide shelter for tents. The area is equipped with kitchen and community shelters and has electrical outlets for the convenience of those bringing cabin trailers. Fresh milk is delivered daily. A caretaker and a matron are on hand during the summer season.

Camp-grounds with kitchen shelters are also located at Alderson, Bertha, Cameron, Crandell, and Crypt Lakes, and at Red Rock Canyon. At Cameron Lake and Red Rock Canyon, caretakers are in attendance during July and August.

Camping in the vicinity of park highways is permitted only at places designated for that purpose. Camping fees are as follows: Ordinary tents—one day, 50 cents; over one day and up to two weeks, \$1.00. Trailers—50 cents per night up to two nights; over two nights and up to two weeks, \$2.00.

Permits may be obtained from the camp attendants or at the office of the Park Superintendent.

Facilities are provided in the Park for youth camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., and church organizations.



CANADA  
 DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES  
 LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH  
 NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE  
 1949

# WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

SCALE  
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REFERENCE

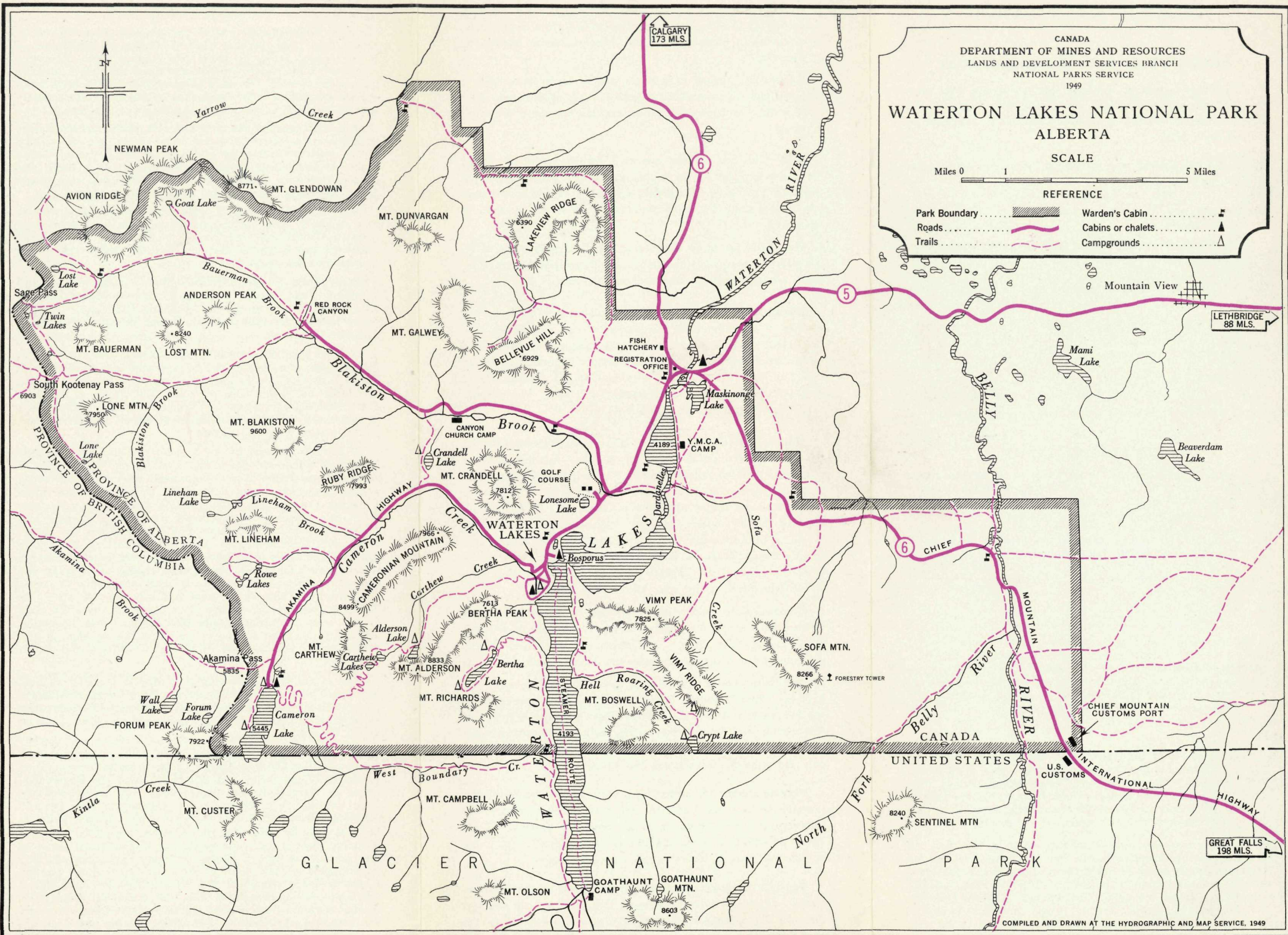
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|---------------|-------|-------------------|---|
| Park Boundary | ▨     | Warden's Cabin    | ⌘ |
| Roads         | —     | Cabins or chalets | ▲ |
| Trails        | - - - | Campgrounds       | △ |

Mountain View

LETHBRIDGE  
 88 MLS.

GREAT FALLS  
 198 MLS.

COMPILED AND DRAWN AT THE HYDROGRAPHIC AND MAP SERVICE, 1949





## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Registration and Motor Licences

All motorists entering Waterton Lakes National Park must register and obtain transient motor licences. Licences are issued for motor vehicles not used for commercial purposes on the following basis:

- (1) Single trip licence: Automobile, 25 cents; auto with trailer attached, 50 cents.
- (2) Licence good for entire season, which is also honoured in Elk Island, Prince Albert, Riding Mountain, and Point Pelee National Parks: Automobile, \$1; auto with trailer attached, \$2.
- (3) Special licence for entire season, which is honoured in all national parks in Canada: Automobile, \$2; auto with trailer attached, \$3.  
Special licences may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

The Park Registration Office is situated at the junction of the Pincher, Cardston, and Chief Mountain International Highways, about 5½ miles north of Waterton Park townsite.

### PARK ADMINISTRATION

A resident superintendent is in charge of the administration of Waterton Lakes National Park. The Administration Building, located in Waterton Park townsite, contains the office of the Park Superintendent, and the Parks Information Bureau. The Bureau is open daily, and information concerning accommodation, travel, recreation, and places of interest may be obtained, as well as literature and detailed maps of the parks. The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

### RECREATION

**Bathing**—The beach at Lake Linnet, a short distance north of the townsite, is ideal for bathing and swimming. Dressing-rooms have been built for the convenience of visitors, and a life-guard who also acts as caretaker at the beach is in attendance from June to September.

The privately-owned Crystal Swimming Pool, opposite the children's playground in the Park townsite, is open to the public.

**Boating**—Boating on Upper Waterton Lake is a favorite pastime. Rowboats may be hired near the dock at Waterton Park townsite. The power-boat "International" makes trips three times daily from Waterton Park townsite up the lake to Gothaunt Landing in Glacier National Park, at a return fare of \$1.50. Launches are also operated by private enterprise.

**Fishing**—Consistent use of modern methods, including the operation of the Waterton Lakes Fish Hatchery, has assured good angling in many of the lakes and streams in the park. At the Parks Information Bureau in Waterton Park townsite visitors can obtain the publication entitled "Angler's Guide to the Mountain National Parks", which contains up-to-date information about the most popular fishing waters in the park and a list of the species to be caught.

A fishing licence is required for all mountain national parks, except Glacier and Mount Revelstoke. The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is greatly appreciated.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time, visitors are requested to consult park officers regarding open waters, seasons catch limits, and the procuring of fishing licences.

**Golf**—The golf course operated by the National Parks Service is situated on the rolling slopes at the base of Mount Crandell, and has a fine scenic setting. It is a 9-hole course and has a small but attractive club-house which is open to visitors.

The green fee is 50 cents for a round of nine holes or 75 cents for eighteen holes (continuous) with comparable rates for daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal periods.

**Hiking and Climbing**—Several well-marked trails in the vicinity of Waterton Park townsite offer fine outings on foot. These lead to Lake Linnet, half a mile from the townsite; Golf Links, two miles; and Bear's Hump (Mount Crandell), one mile. Peaks in the vicinity which may be climbed include Mount Crandell, 7,812 feet; Bertha Peak, 7,613 feet; Vimy Peak, 7,825 feet; Sofa Mountain, 8,268 feet.

**Motoring**—Nearly 50 miles of all-weather highways in the park provide delightful drives for visitors. Interesting motor trips might include visits to Glacier National Park via the Chief Mountain International Highway; Cameron Lake via Akamina Road along the valley of Cameron Creek; Red Rock Canyon, reached by following the park highway 2½ miles from Waterton Park townsite to Blakiston Brook bridge, turning left, and following Blakiston Brook (Pass Creek) Valley; and the Waterton Lakes Fish Hatchery situated on Pincher Highway, half a mile north of the Park Registration Office.

Cameron Falls, which is at the edge of the Park townsite and which is one of the finest cascades in the park, is reached by Cameron Falls Drive. A number of fish-rearing ponds, surrounded by beautiful gardens, are located near the Falls.

Motorists travelling northward from Glacier National Park over the Chief Mountain International Highway pass through the picturesque valley of the Belly River. From this highway many trails lead through the eastern portion of Waterton Lakes Park into peaceful solitudes of forest and open foothills where only the wild creatures break the stillness.

**Playing Fields**—A large open area in the centre of the townsite is used for baseball and other summer sports. A playground for children is also available nearby. It is equipped with chutes, swings, and other facilities for children's enjoyment; there is also a wading pool for tots.

**Tennis**—Tennis courts owned and operated by the National Parks Service are available free of charge. They are situated near the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks in Waterton Park townsite.

### TRAIL RIDING

In the development of Waterton Lakes National Park much thought has been given to the preservation of the landscape in its natural state. To make this scenery more accessible roads and trails had to be built and these are being extended from year to year. Developments of this nature have been carried out with as little disturbance as possible to the scenery, wildlife habitats, and natural phenomena of the area.

Although many of the park's beauty spots can be viewed from either the highways or the water routes, one has to take to the trails to reach some of the more remote areas. Many places of exceptional scenic interest are within a day's ride of Waterton Park townsite or the park highways, and plenty of saddle-ponies are available for the use of visitors.

More than 160 miles of wide trails are open to visitors who desire to ride. Saddle horses may be hired from local outfitters. Hitch-racks are located on the flat in the townsite. Following are a few of the most popular shorter rides, with the distance one way:

Bertha Lake, 5 miles; Carthew Lakes, 7 miles; International Boundary (Lake Shore), 5 miles; Gothaunt Camp (Glacier Park), 9 miles; Cameron Lake (Akamina Highway), 10 miles; Crypt Lake (from Hell Roaring Cabin), 5 miles; Red Rock Canyon, 11½ miles.

Another popular ride takes the sight-seer over the trail to Bertha Lake, using Waterton Park townsite as a starting point. The trail zig-zags up the side of Mount Alderson past several waterfalls and then circles the lake. The waters of this lake are a vivid emerald shade and combine with the darker green of the forests and the red-streaked slopes of the surrounding peaks to form a striking picture.

A somewhat longer trip by trail up Blakiston Brook and its tributaries, Bauerman Brook and Lone Brook, will provide a delightful experience long to be remembered. The trail winds around Lost Lake, Sage Pass, Twin Lakes, and over South Kootenay Pass. From ideal vantage points one may gaze down into alpine valleys carved by ancient glaciers and ringed by multi-coloured mountains whose slopes are dotted with lovely lakes and tarns. Here the nature lover may study the flora and fauna to his heart's content and the photographer secure some rare scenic gems and wildlife subjects for his snapshot album. The area lends itself admirably to colour photography. There is a good highway up the valley of Blakiston Brook as far as Red Rock Canyon, where the trails to the west boundary of the park begin. This boundary, extending along the summit of the Canadian Rockies, is also the boundary between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

One of the most interesting trail trips in the Park is from Waterton Park townsite to Cameron Lake by way of Alderson and Carthew Lakes. From Cameron Lake a trail winds westward through Akamina Brook, and south to Wall Lake in British Columbia.

Trails leading to wilderness areas wind northward from the Registration Office to Yarrow Creek at the extreme northern boundary of the park; and southward from the Registration Office to Vimy Peak and Vimy Ridge. By using Waterton Park townsite as a starting point, sightseeing trips by trail might include a ride along the east side of Upper Waterton Lake to Hell Roaring Canyon. On the west side of Upper Waterton Lake a trail runs southward to Gothaunt Camp at the head of the lake in Glacier National Park, thus affording opportunities to view some of the magnificent alpine scenery in the southern section of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. A branch of this trail running westward in Glacier National Park crosses the International Boundary and winds northward to Carthew and Alderson Lakes and westward to Cameron Lake, where it joins the Akamina Highway.

### WILDLIFE PROTECTION

As the chief purposes of Canada's National Parks require that they be maintained in their natural state, all wildlife within their boundaries is rigidly protected. For this reason hunting and possession of firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds or their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permit.

### FAUNA AND FLORA

**Animals and Birds**—Wildlife is one of the main attractions of the park. Among the species of big game which may be seen are mule and white-tailed deer, grizzly and black bear, Rocky Mountain sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, elk, and moose. The whistler or hoary marmot, badger, porcupine, cougar, beaver, and several species of squirrel are also common. Bird life is abundant.

**Trees and Flowers**—The park contains many species which may interest the botanist and nature lover, for within this area the prairie flora and mountain flora meet. Among the species of trees found are the lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, balsam fir, Engelmann spruce, western white spruce, aspen, cottonwood, dwarf maple, and Lyall's or alpine larch. Shrubs include the diamond willow, saskatoon, elder, wild currant, and blueberry.

Wild flowers are found in the valleys and along the mountain slopes in large numbers. Among the best known varieties are the arnica, prairie rose, brown-eyed Susan, aster, Indian paint brush, larkspur, wild geranium, pasque flower, purple windflower, hellebore, yellow columbine, avalanche lily, saxifrage, heather, and Jacob's ladder. Balsamroot and bear grass are among species also found in Waterton Lakes National Park. Visitors are requested to protect the trees and wild flowers and help keep the park beautiful.

### FIRE PREVENTION

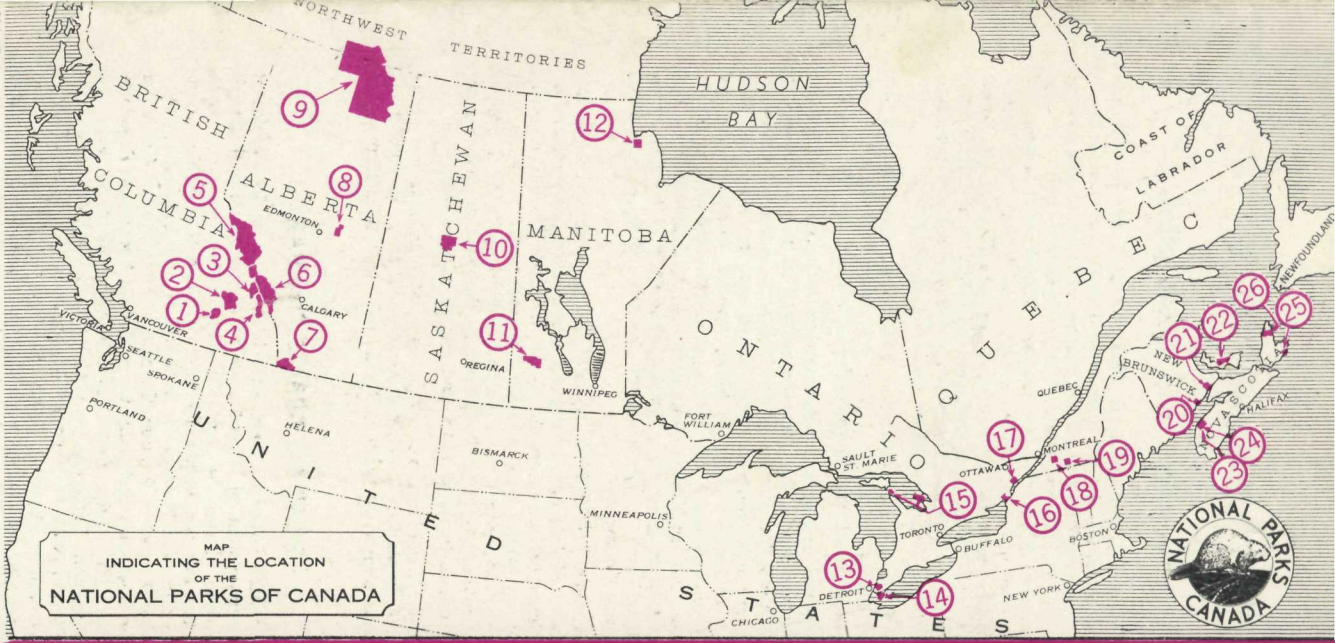
Visitors are urged to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Smoking materials and camp-fires should be completely extinguished. Camp-fires should be kindled only at places provided for the purpose. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the park regulations and secure particulars concerning suitable camp-sites and other related information. Parties making extended trips into park areas, which involve camping out overnight, must register with a park warden, or at the superintendent's office.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest park officer. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be repaired in a century. Not only are the trees in the park a joy and inspiration, but they afford sanctuary for many forms of wildlife that add beauty and interest to the area. It is virtually impossible to protect these national playgrounds without the close and constant co-operation of all who frequent them.



# Key to map of National Parks

1. Mount Revelstoke
2. Glacier
3. Yoho
4. Kootenay
5. Jasper
6. Banff
7. Waterton Lakes
8. Elk Island
9. Wood Buffalo
10. Prince Albert
11. Riding Mountain
12. Fort Prince of Wales
13. Fort Malden
14. Point Pelee
15. Georgian Bay Islands
16. St. Lawrence Islands
17. Fort Wellington
18. Fort Chambly
19. Fort Lennox
20. Fundy
21. Fort Beausejour
22. Prince Edward Island
23. Port Royal
24. Fort Anne
25. Fortress of Louisbourg
26. Cape Breton Highlands



Write for information to:

**EDITORIAL AND INFORMATION DIVISION  
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**OTTAWA, CANADA**

